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# Biden charges U.S. Mideast policy is 'consistently naive'

By Miles Cunningham  
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The Reagan administration's security arrangements for the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon, the scene of a truck bomb blast last week, came under fire yesterday.

Embassies can be "made more secure," said Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., charging that administration officials were "not doing their job."

He characterized the Reagan administration's policy in the Middle East as "consistently naive" and overly optimistic.

The senator appeared on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" along with U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick and former Middle East special envoy Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Mr. Biden said yesterday that the CIA told him on Friday that it did not know who had caused the explosion that took the lives of two Americans Thursday at the embassy in East Beirut.

The security arrangements also drew fire from Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., on CBS' "Face the

Nation." Mr. Leahy, a member of the Senate Investigations Committee, said "there was not adequate security" at the embassy in East Beirut.

Mr. Leahy said the United States must learn to live with terrorism as a permanent condition in our time. "Terrorism is going to be there in the Middle East, it is endemic in the Middle East."

Sen. Leahy said the United States should not "cry wolf" — threatening retaliation without acting. "Do it swiftly, surely, and talk about it afterwards," he said. "You beef up security and at the same time you go after the terrorists."

Robert Kupperman, a terrorism expert from Georgetown University who also appeared on "Face the Nation," said, "we were unprepared." Pop-up barriers, bomb-sniffing dogs, dump trucks loaded with sand — all could have been in place but were not, said Mr. Kupperman.

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dle East as "consistently naive" and overly optimistic.

Mr. Rumsfeld and Mrs. Kirkpatrick defended the security measures, each asserting that terror had become a new part of international diplomacy. Both echoed assertions by administration officials that it was impossible to prevent every act of terrorism by persons willing to sacrifice their lives.

Mr. Rumsfeld said that each new security measure brought about a change in terror tactics. In the future, he warned, the United States and other countries probably will face new threats involving nuclear, chemical and biological warfare terror.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick and the other two participants all expressed frustration at the inability to identify the perpetrators — and therefore retaliate against them — of last week's bombing and two others within the past 17 months in Beirut that have taken at least 260 American lives.

Leslie Stahl, moderator of "Face the Nation," said other members of the Reagan administration had

been invited to appear on the program and answer questions about the bombing but had declined.

"I think the answers will be forthcoming," responded Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., also a member of Senate Investigations Committee.

Sen. Charles H. Percy, R-Ill., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, ordered an investigation on Friday into security measures at the embassy. He said he wanted a bipartisan staff report within two to three weeks as to whether "all necessary precautions" had been taken.

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., said on Friday the House Intelligence Committee would open a probe into the withdrawal less than two months ago of an 80-man contingent of Marines protecting the embassy.

A little-known organization calling itself Islamic Jihad (Holy War), reportedly with ties to Iran, has claimed responsibility for the attack last week as well as the bombings of the American embassy and U.S. Marine outpost last year.

The two Americans killed have been identified as Army Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth V. Welch, 33, of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Ray Wagner, 30, of Zebulon, N.C.

Donald Neff of The Washington Times staff contributed to this article.